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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

New York Academy of Sciences.—Geological Section, April 21st, 1879.—Prof. Arnold Guyot, of Princeton College, presented a paper upon "The Topography of the Catskills," embodying some of the leading points brought out during several years' summer study of these mountains, and now nearly ready for publication. It seems extraordinary that a region like this, in the oldest part of the country as regards settlement, and long celebrated as a resort for travelers, hunters, artists, etc., should have remained so largely an unknown wilderness even to this very day. It was reserved for Prof. Guyot, within a few summers past, actually to discover and name an extensive group of mountains, rising into peaks in some cases over 4000 feet high. This group—the "Southern Catskills," or "Shandakens," was not laid down on any map or described in any gazetteer; and when Prof. Guyot first looked out upon it from a southern height of the main Catskills, he had the surprising experience of a new discovery in the heart of the State of New York. The gazetteers had mentioned it as a hilly country, merely; and the fact that it contains mountains higher than the true Catskills, was new to geographical science. The scantiness of our knowledge regarding all this region—save in the immediate vicinity of the summer resorts—is due largely to the dense forest with which the slopes and summits are clothed, which renders it very difficult to gain connected and extensive views.

Prof. Guyot divides the whole group into two, as already intimated, the true Catskills and the Shandakens or Southern Catskills, separated by the valley of Esopus Creek. From the former flow the Catskill creek into the Hudson, Schoharie Creek into the Mohawk, and numerous affluents of the Upper Delaware; from the latter flow Esopus Creek and Rondout River, into the Hudson, and Neversink River into the Delaware. The mountains exhibit a series of long sub-parallel ranges, trending S.E. and N.W., nearly at right-angles to the general Appalachian course; and this fact, at first, would cause perplexity to the geologist. More careful study, however, removes this apparent anomaly; as these ranges are seen to be simply the result of denudation, excavating an elevated table land; while if a line be drawn from peak to peak of the loftiest summits, it appears that this line will take the N.E. and S.W. course of the Appalachian system. The most prominent summits, which thus mark out the central elevated ridge of the now-excavated plateau, are Black Top, on the northernmost range of the true Catskills, Hunter mountain, on the southern range, and Slide mountain, in the Shandakens, all of which are over 4000 feet high.

Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Feb. 25.—The President, Dr. Ruschenberger, in the Chair. Dr. Goldsmith exhibited some specimens of

Asphaltum from the marl of Vincenttown, N. J., and a peculiar amber from the same source which was considered to be *Krantzite.* Dr. König exhibited his *Chromometer*, an apparatus devised for the purpose of making quantitative analysis of ores by the effect upon beads made by fusion with borax of their complementary colors as seen through red or green prisms of very small divergence.

Microscopical and Biological Section of the Academy, Feb. 3.—Prof. Wm. Barbeck delivered an illustrated lecture on the smuts, rusts and molds injurious to cereal grains.

Feb. 17.—Dr. J. Gibbons Hunt delivered a lecture on the mosses and liverworts.

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SELECTED ARTICLES IN SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.

Psyche.—March. Geographical distribution of North American Coleoptera, by E. P. Austin.

Jenaische Zeitschrift fur Naturwissenschaft.—April 15. The comparative anatomy of the digestive system of birds, by H. Gadow ; part 1, with eight plates. (Contains many figures of the digestive tract, together with its appendages,of the ratitate and carinate birds, a very useful work).

American Journal of Science and Arts.—May. Experiments in cross-breeding plants of the same variety, by W. J. Beal. Hudson river age of the Taconic schists, etc., by J. D. Dana.

The Geological Magazine. — May. Notes on Palæozoic Crustacea, by H. Woodward. On Prof. Dana's classification of rocks, by Prof. Bonney. On plagioclinal mountains, by C. Calloway.

American Geographical Society, May 13.—Mr. A. A. Hayes, Jr., read a paper on modern ocean highways.

June 2.—Mr. J. S. Lamson exhibited specimens of the prehistoric pottery and other antiquities recently procured from graves in Chiriqui, Central America, with some account of the mode of their occurrence.

Appalachian Mountain Club, May 14.—Prof. J. H. Huntington read a paper entitled, From the Forks of the Kennebec to Lake Megantic, and Prof. W. H. Niles explained the use of the Alpine rope.

May 17, there was an excursion to Prospect Hill, Waltham, Mass.

Boston Society of Natural History, May 7.—Mr. M. E. Wadsworth discussed the classification of rocks, and Dr. T. M. Brewer noticed certain birds of New England.

May 21.—Dr. T. M. Brewer continued his notices of New England birds, and Mr. S. H. Scudder remarked on the earliest cockroaches.

Troy Scientific Association, May 19.—Dr. R. H. Ward made an address on mountain vegetation.